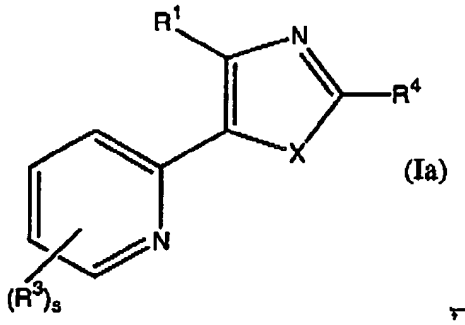
Appl. No. 10/667,187
Amendment dated August 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed 5/10/06

Amendments to the claims:

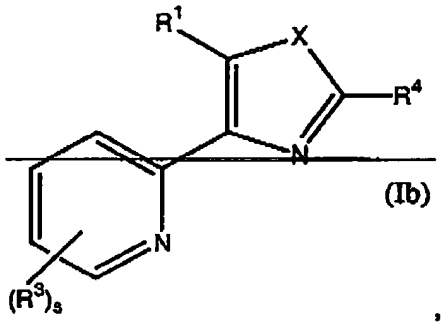
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (Ia) ~~or (Ib)~~:



(Ia)

~~, or~~

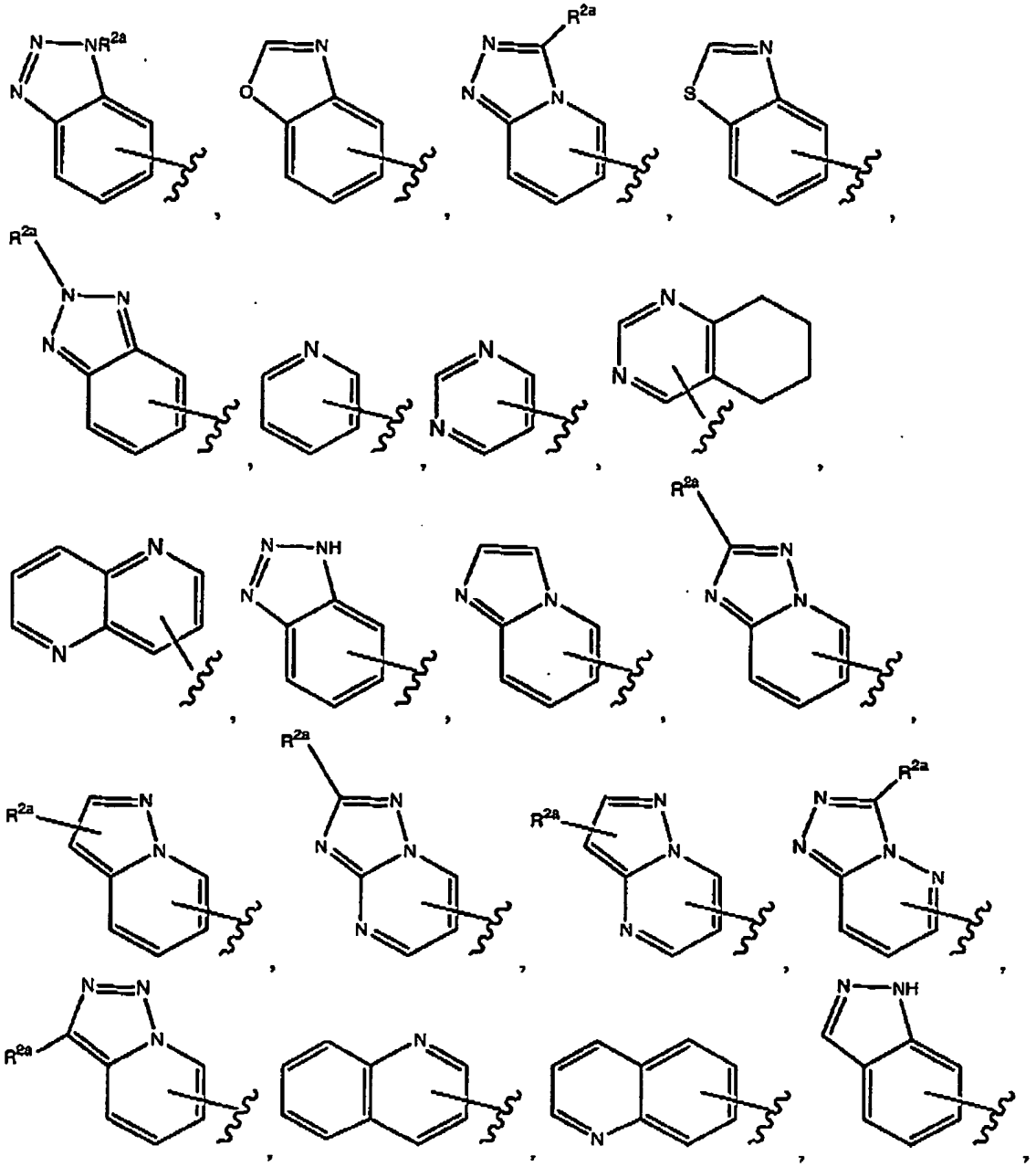


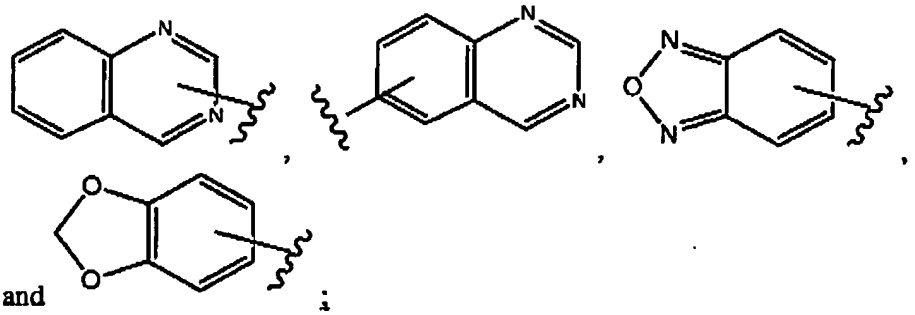
(Ib)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, tautomer or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is O or S;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of





and ;

where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, ~~(C_2-C_6) acid, (C_1-C_6) ester,~~ (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)ester, and where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, ~~(C_2-C_6) acid, (C_1-C_6) ester,~~ heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2N$-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2N$-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $(phenyl)_2N$-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(phenyl-)_2N$-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2N$-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and $(phenyl)_2N$-(C=O)-O-;

wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, and (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-~~,~~;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkylHN-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl and (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl;

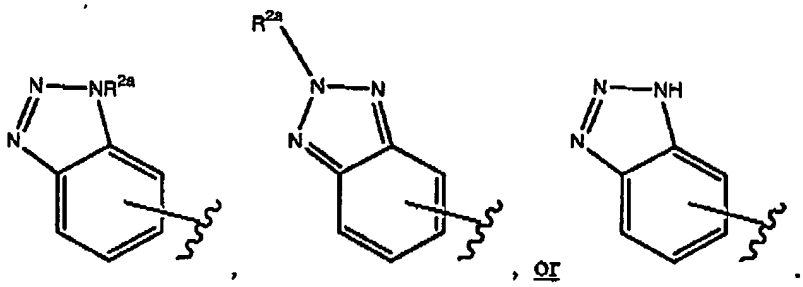
with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl moiety, then (a) R^1 is not naphthyl, phenyl or anthracenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted;

with the proviso that when R^4 is NH_2 and X is S, then R^1 is not an amino-substituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl moiety~~,~~; and

~~with the proviso that when in formula (Ia) R^4 is NH_2 and X is S, then R^1 is not a pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, a naphthyridinyl moiety, or a quinoline moiety that is bonded to the thiazol moiety through the phenyl ring; and~~

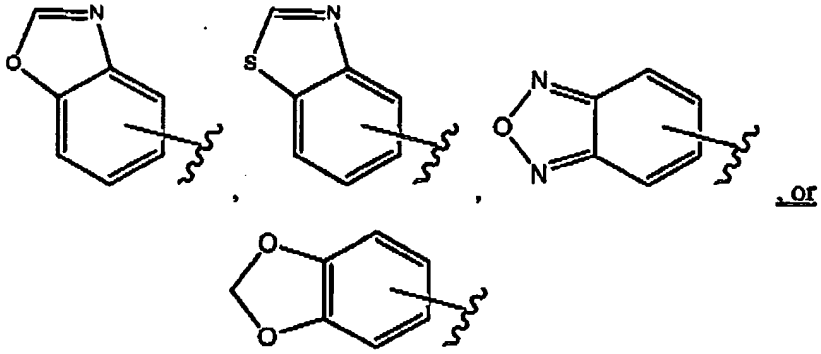
with the proviso ~~proviso~~ that when in formula (Ia) R^4 is CH_3 and X is S, R^1 is not a 3,4-dimethoxy substituted phenyl moiety.

2. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



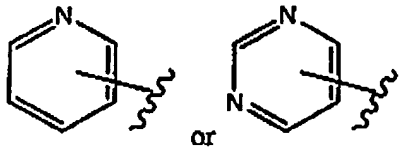
, or

3. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



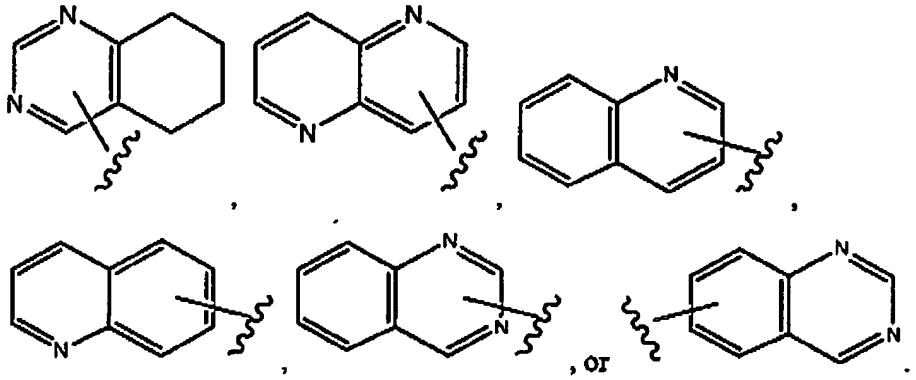
, or

4. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



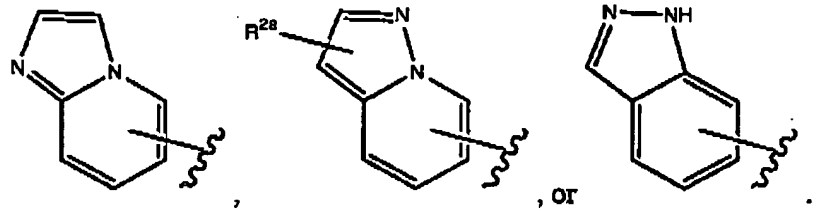
or

5. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



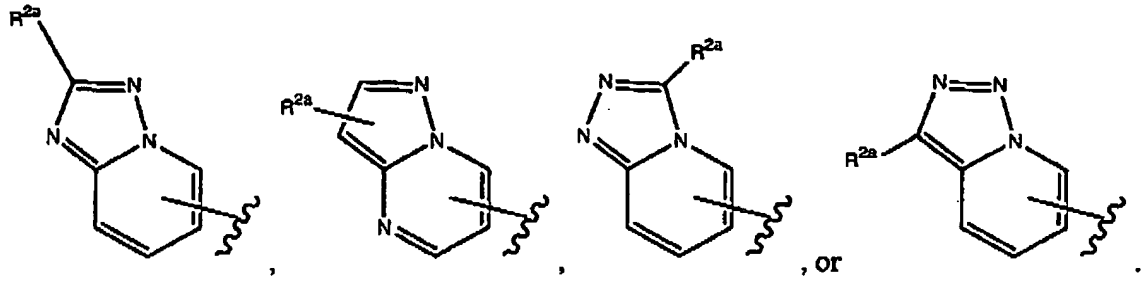
, or

6. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



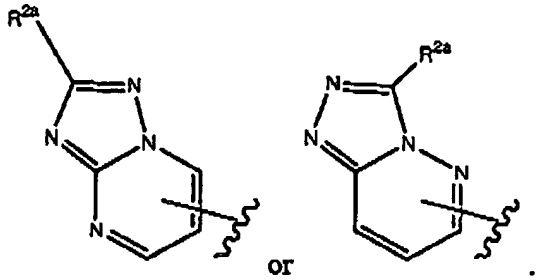
, or

7. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



, or

8. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is



or

9. (withdrawn) A compound of claim 1, wherein X is O; s is one to two; R^3 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl; and R^4 is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, or amino.

10. (original) A compound of claim 1, wherein X is S; s is one to two; R^3 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl; and R^4 is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, or amino.

11. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (withdrawn) A compound selected from the groups consisting of
2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;
2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-pyridine;
2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methoxy-pyridine;
2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyridine;
2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;
4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;
1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

6-(4-Pyridin-2-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-quinoxaline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-(4-pyridin-2-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-quinoline;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-ethyl-pyridine;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-propyl-pyridine;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-benzothiazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinolin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-[1,5]naphthyridin-2-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

{4-[2-Amino-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinolin-4-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinolin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-[1,5]naphthyridin-2-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

{4-[2-Amino-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinolin-4-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

6-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl- pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

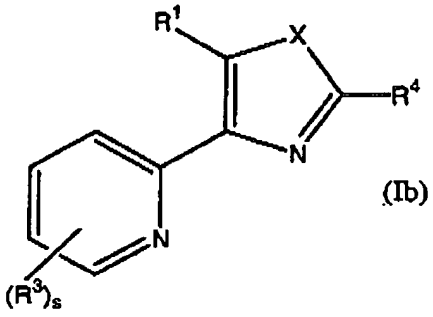
{4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; and

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (new) A compound of formula (Ib):

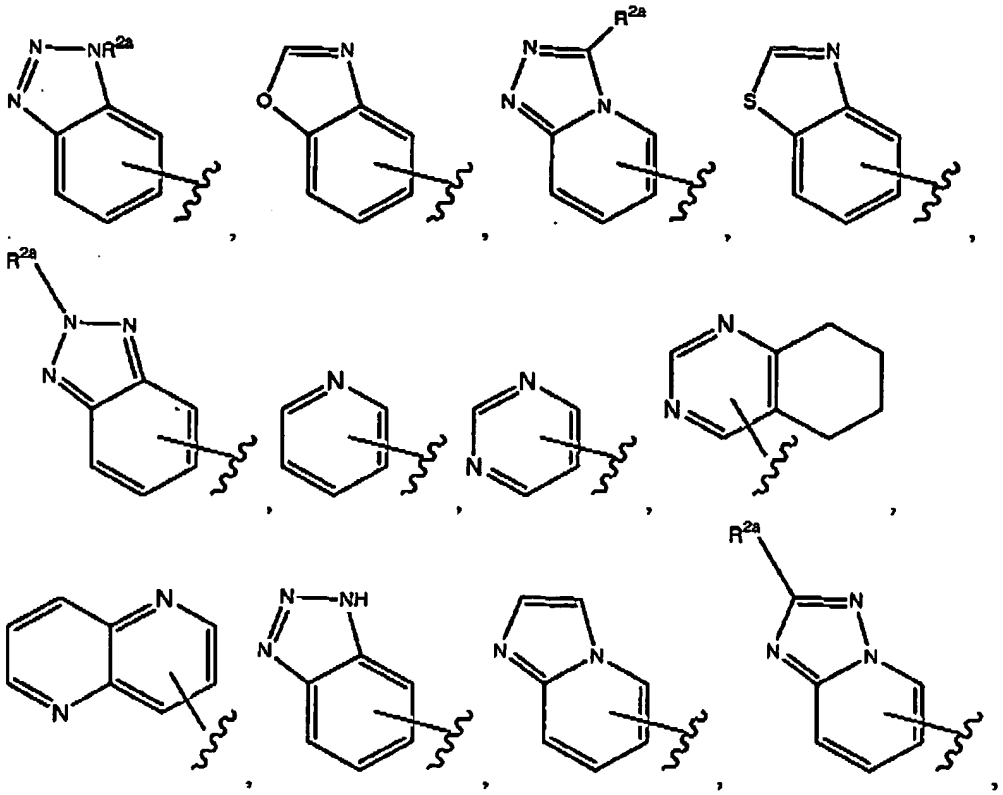


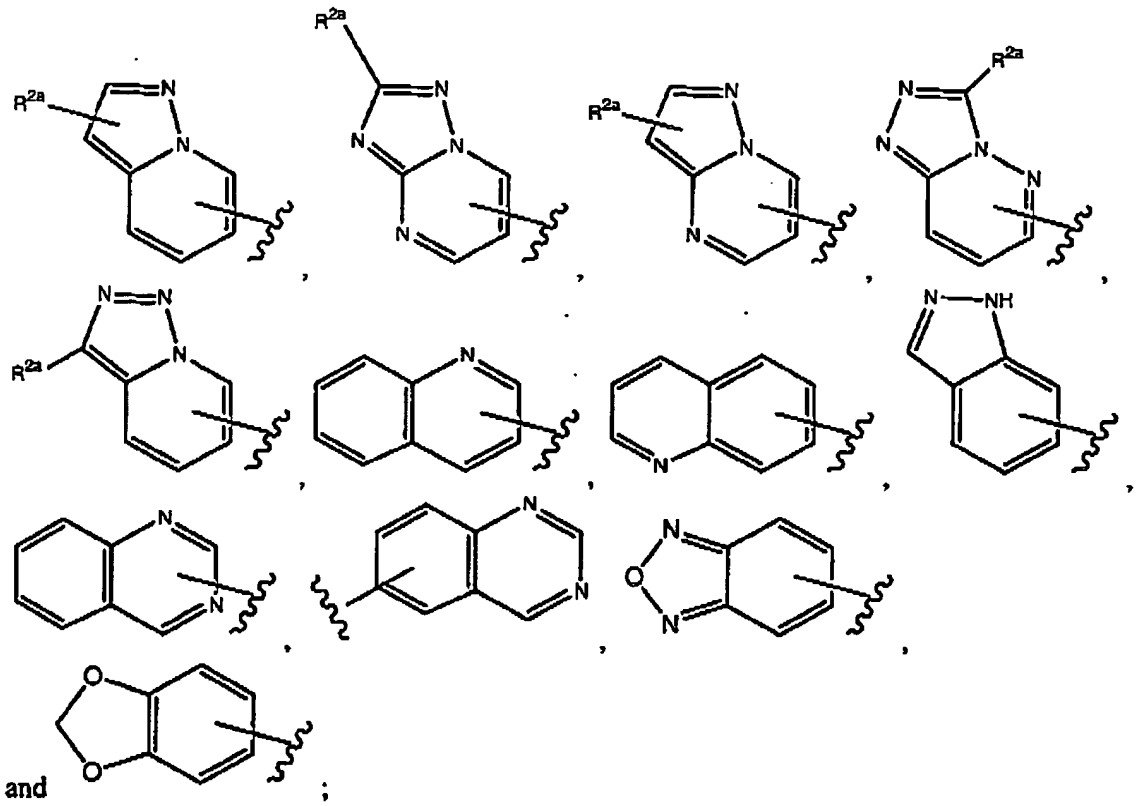
(Ib)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, tautomer or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is O;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of





and ;

where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, and where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-[

(C_1-C_6)alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-,
(phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-,
(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-,
phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-,
phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-,
(C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-,
((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-;
wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-,

phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-O- ;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, halo, H$_2$N-, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-;

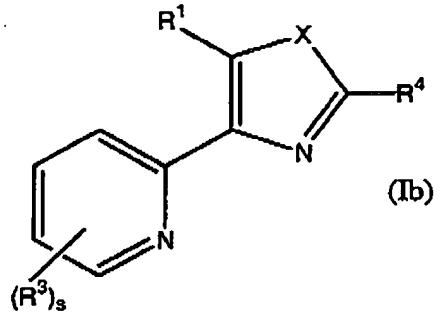
s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkenyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkynyl, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, phenyl, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-O-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-O-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-O-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-S-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-NH-SO$_2$-, O$_2$N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino, [(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO$_2$S-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H$_2$N(C=O)-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, halo, H$_2$N-, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl and (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclyl;

with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl moiety, then (a) R^1 is not naphthyl, phenyl or anthracenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted.

17. (new) A compound of formula (Ib):

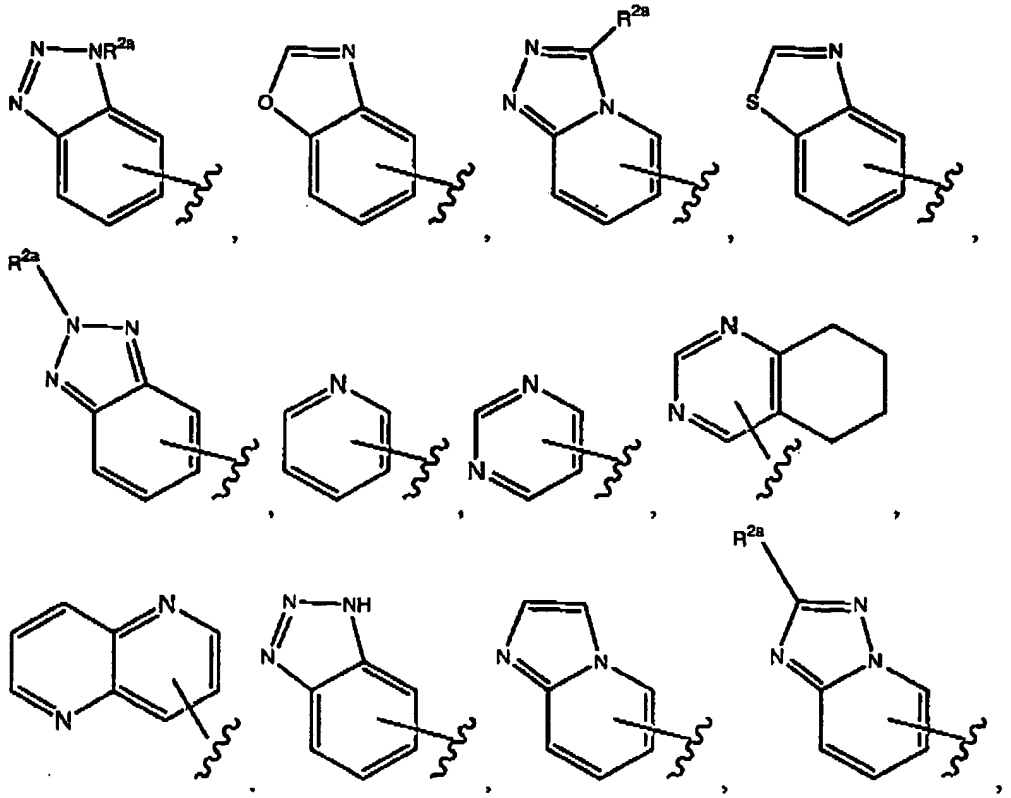


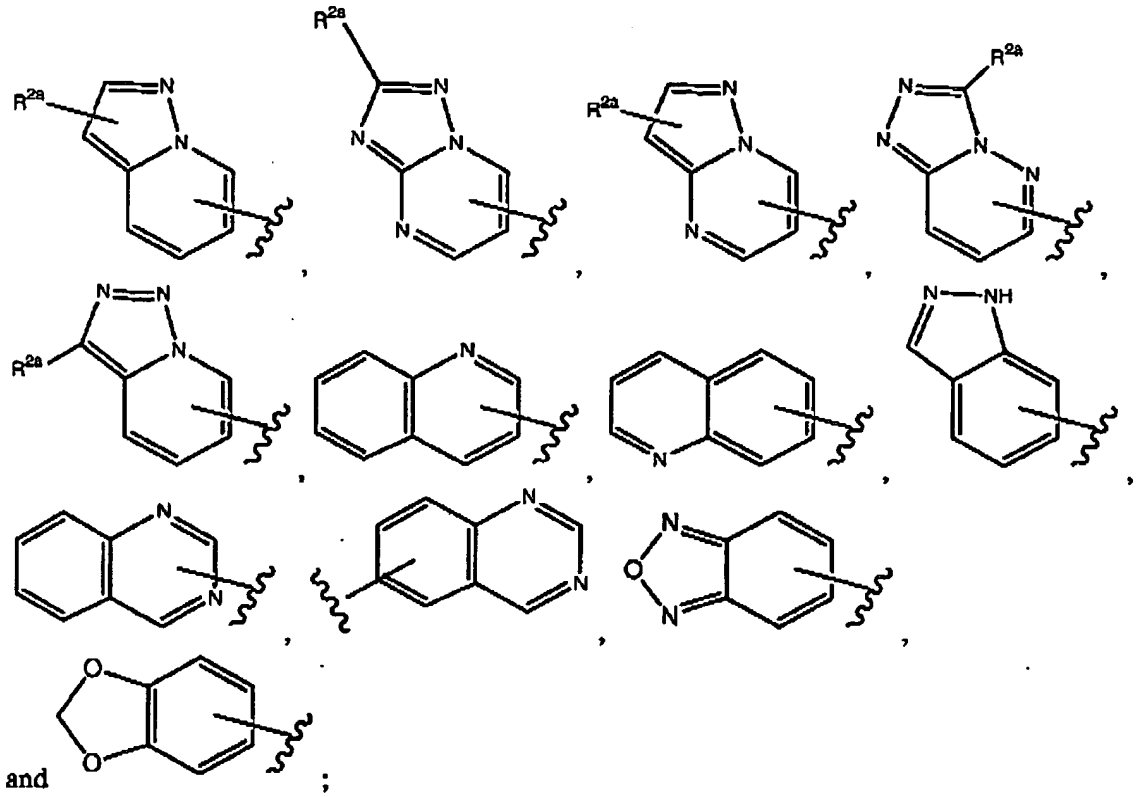
(Ib)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, tautomer or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is S;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of





and ;

where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, and where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-[

(C_1-C_6)alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-;
wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH_2)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-,

phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-;

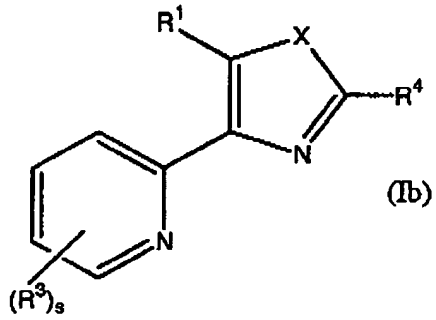
s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkenyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkynyl, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, phenyl, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-O-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-O-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-O-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-S-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-NH-SO$_2$-, O_2N-, NC-, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino, [(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl and (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclyl;

with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl moiety, then (a) R^1 is not naphthyl, phenyl or anthracenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted.

18. (new) A compound of formula (Ib):

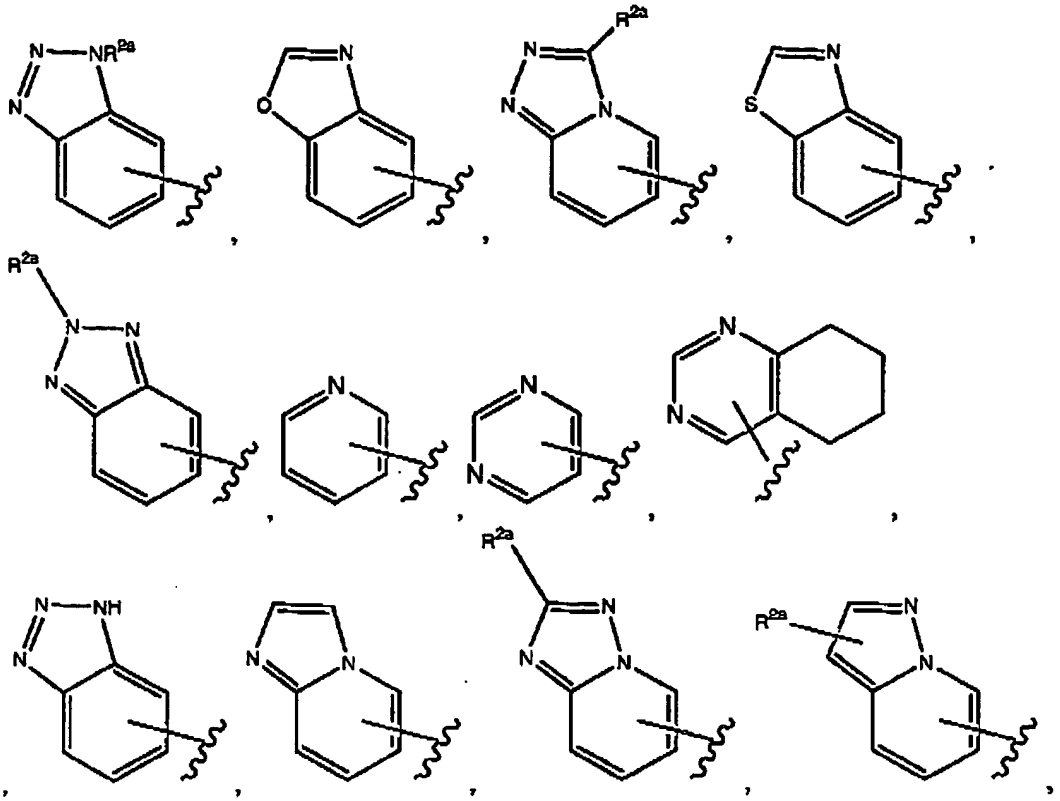


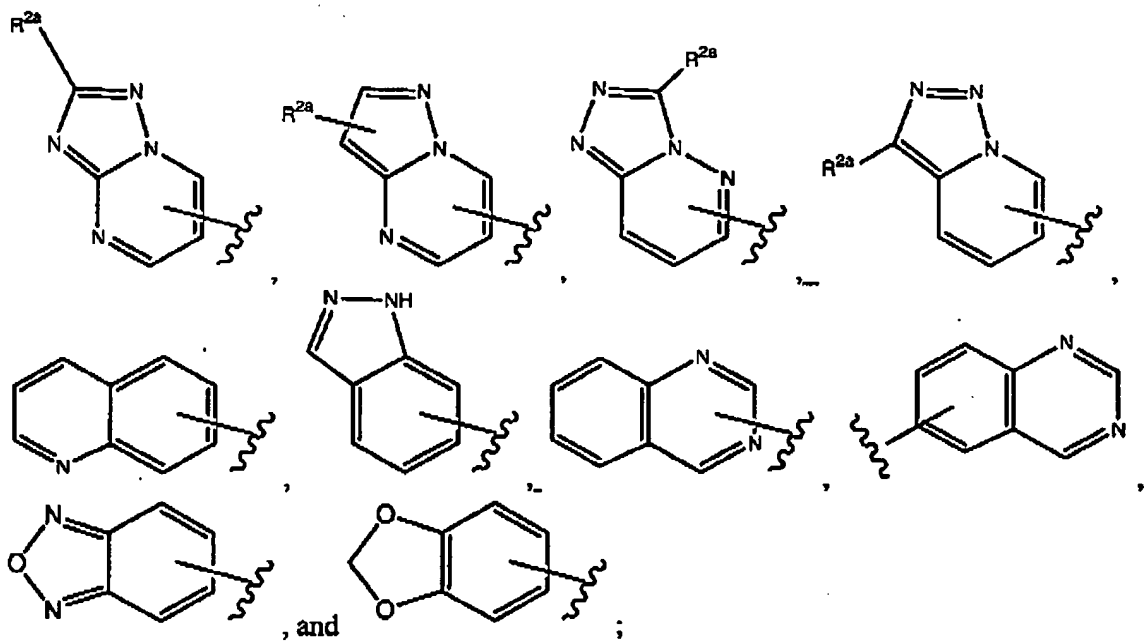
(Ib)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, tautomer or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is S;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of





, and ;

where R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, and where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, amino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, and alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[($(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$N-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, $(\text{phenyl})_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(\text{phenyl-})_2$N-(C=O)-[($(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-[($(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-.

(C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, phenyl-SO_2-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)ester-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H_2N-(C=O)-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2N$-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and $(phenyl)_2N$-(C=O)-O-;

wherein R^1 can optionally be further independently substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of: carbonyl, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, hydroxy, oxo, mercapto, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_5-C_{10})aryl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryloxy, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})ar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_5-C_{10})heteroar(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, HO-(C=O)-, ester, amido, ether, amino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, cyano, nitro, carbamoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})arylcarbonyl, (C_5-C_{10})aryloxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, and (C_5-C_{10})arylsulfonyl;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}HN$-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl HN-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, $[(C_1-C_6)alkyl]_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $[(C_1-C_6)alkyl]_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected

from $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1\text{-}6}HN$-, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, phenoxy, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-O-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-O-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1\text{-}6}HN$-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylHN-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $[(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl}]_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO_2S-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-$((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})$-N-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-$((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})$-N]-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-$((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})$-N]-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1\text{-}6}HN$-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylHN-, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl and $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl;

with the proviso that when R^4 is a substituted phenyl moiety, then (a) R^1 is not naphthyl, phenyl or anthracenyl and (b) if R^1 is a phenyl fused with an aromatic or non-aromatic cyclic ring of 5-7 members wherein said cyclic ring optionally contains up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, then the fused cyclic ring of said R^1 moiety is substituted.

19. (new) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-Methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

4-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinolin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-4-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine;

{4-[2-Amino-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

1-Methyl-6-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

6-[5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-5-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(4-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-5-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; and

6-[2-methyl-5-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-4-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (new) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-pyridine;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methoxy-pyridine;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyridine;

2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

6-(4-Pyridin-2-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-quinoxaline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-(4-pyridin-2-yl-oxazol-5-yl)-quinoline;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-ethyl-pyridine;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-propyl-pyridine;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-benzothiazole;

6-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-oxazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine; and

4-[2-Methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-oxazol-5-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (new) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

1-Methyl-6-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl-pyridine;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

6-[4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline;

1-Methyl-6-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-1H-benzotriazole;

2-Methyl-5-[2-methyl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-2H-benzotriazole;

2-(5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-6-methyl- pyridine;

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoxaline;

2-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-[1,5]naphthyridine;

{4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-pyridin-2-yl}-phenyl-amine;

4-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline; and

6-[2-methyl-4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-5-yl]-quinoline; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (new) A compound selected from the groups consisting of

5-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-yl)-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine;

5-Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl-4-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiazol-2-ylamine; and

4-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-5-quinoxalin-6-yl-thiazol-2-ylamine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.